

Cable companies have a MONOPOLY in each geographical area. Without competition they can and do control absolutely everything, including the rates they charge, the services they provide, and the channels available to us! They also get away with providing horrible service — I just experienced that with Charter Communications. I spent 5 hours on and off the phone with them trying to get a simple answer about what they charge for a service. I NEVER got an answer — not even from a Billing Supervisor, and was put on hold and transferred endlessly. Phone numbers they gave me were disconnected and at other times when I called numbers that were NOT disconnected there was total silence on the line,

indicating that they were having phone trouble which was not corrected over a span of 3 work days.

My local phone company tried the number for me and had the same experience. This is OUTRAGEOUS!!! No customer should have to put up with that.

ALLOW COMPETITION,
AND DON'T ALLOW
MERGERS OF ANY OF
THE CABLE COMPANIES!
WE NEED THE
COMPETITION!!!

Giant cable companies should not be permitted to grow larger. Further consolidation in the cable industry is a clear violation of horizontal ownership rules that must be re-established to serve the public interest.

The concentration of power and control over distribution of media is a growing problem in this country. Though we

have more channels available than ever before, they are under the operation of a handful of giant corporations.

If Comcast and Time Warner are allowed to merge with Adelphia, the two companies will control nearly 50 percent of the national market.

This level of concentration in the cable industry will lead to higher consumer rates and lower quality service.

Cable companies are PRICE-GOUGING!

Retirees and lower income people can't afford the services which to some are essential, and to all bring information and entertainment into the home. They need RE-REGULATION!

Since passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the

“deregulation” of cable, consumers have seen their rates jump an average of 59 percent — with some areas experiencing even more dramatic increases.

We are required to buy channels we don’t want or need because the cable operators bundle them together. The quality of customer service often reflects the fact that cable television is not a competitive market.

Meanwhile, the cost of cable modem service remains out of reach for many households, holding constant for years and selectively underserving rural and low-income Americans. The American people are watching the digital divide widen even as the need for access to high-speed networks increases.

Cable companies have become less responsive to the needs and requirements of communities. The quality of public accountability in local franchise agreements has declined, as big companies leverage their power to squeeze local governments.

In many communities, the truly independent sources of local news, information and culture come from the public channels produced at the local access centers.

Unfortunately, local channels lack the resources to produce the programming that citizens want and need.

The LAST thing we need is to reward the anti-competitive actions of cable giants by permitting

greater
consolidation in
ownership, reducing
competition, and
encouraging more of
the same.

SHAME ON YOU FOR
EVEN CONSIDERING
MERGERS OF THE
GIANTS! JUST SAY
NO!